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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of power and might, wisdom and justice, for whom all authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed, thank You for the gift of this day, for the opportunity to be used by You to make a positive difference in our world.

Use our lawmakers for Your honor. Assist them with Your spirit of counsel and fortitude. Give them the wisdom to always seek the paths of righteousness, justice, and mercy. Protect them with Your omnipotence, and infuse them with the passion to lead this Nation with honesty and integrity. Lord, help them to walk blamelessly, so that Your integrity will guide them and Your favor will sustain them. May this historic Chamber become a place of creative exchange of insights that leads to shared convictions about what is best for America.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3001, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3001) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities for the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 5290, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 5291 (to amendment No. 5290), of a perfecting nature.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services with instructions to report back forthwith, with Reid amendment No. 5292 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 5293 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit to the bill), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 5294 (to amendment No. 5293), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as previously announced, there are no roll-call votes today or Monday. Senators should expect the next vote to occur on Tuesday. However, Senator WARNER and I will be here today, we will be here Monday, and we will, of course, be here Tuesday morning to discuss amendments with Senators to try to get these amendments considered or at least in line to be considered. We are clearing amendments. We have a managers' package already that is ready to go with—I am not sure how many amendments we have already put in there—perhaps 15 or 16 amendments that have already been cleared. We can't get them passed yet because of an objection, but we would expect that objection would be removed by Tuesday. We will continue in the next few days, over the weekend, to try to agree upon many of the 200-plus amendments that have been filed so that we would be hopeful that we would have a large

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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